THE BRIEF LIFE OF JAMES ROBERT BATEMAN

Dedicated to his thirteen grandchildren who never knew him, based on historical research and the writings of his wife and two oldest sons, who lost him much too soon.

Kim Bateman
Spring City, Utah – January 2022

James Robert Bateman – Early Years

On January 4, 1896, President Grover Cleveland signed Proclamation 382 which made Utah the 35th state, officially ending four difficult decades of struggle between the Mormon Church and the federal government. Three years earlier Cleveland's predecessor Benjamin Harrison had issued a proclamation of amnesty for all polygamists who had taken wives prior to the Manifesto of November 1, 1890.

On June 4 of that year in Detroit, Henry Ford sold his first automobile, the Quadricycle, for $200. He had made it by hand in his workshop, and it featured an engine that generated four horsepower, a chain drive with two gears which did not include reverse, and a top speed of 20 miles per hour. It would be 12 more years before he established his famous production line for the Model T.

Ford Quadricycle

Parylee with Robbie in November 1896

It was also in 1896 that a baby boy was born August 13 in a small cabin a half mile north of Gardner's Mill in West Jordan to James Alphonso Bateman, known to his friends and family as "Phonnie" or "Uncle Phon" and his young wife Parylee Pixton, both third generation Mormons, whose grandfathers had known each other in Manchester, England. The baby's name was James Robert Bateman—his parents generally called him "Robbie," but this changed with time. His future wife, Rela McMullin, wrote many decades later, "Most of us called him Bob.[1] Only his mother always called her boy Robert—she was very proud of him and his achievements."

One pair of Robbie's paternal great grandparents, Thomas Bateman who worked with his own father and two brothers in a brickyard, and Mary Street, a laundress, were among the 240 members of the branch of the Mormon Church raised up in Manchester by William Clayton, one of the earliest British converts, who later became famous as the writer of the hymn "Come, Come Ye Saints" and as the inventor (along with Parley P. Pratt) of the odometer which measured the miles travelled by the vanguard pioneer company into the Great Salt Lake Valley in 1847. Robbie's other paternal great grandfather, Robert Pixton, had worked at the Batemans' brickyard in England and sailed to America with one of the Bateman brothers. He was baptized a Mormon by Thomas Bateman in the Skunk River near their new brickyard in Augusta, Iowa about 20 miles north of Nauvoo. After they arrived in Utah about nine years later, the Batemans and Pixtons were among the first to live in West Jordan, the Batemans settling near Gardner's Mill and the Pixtons a few miles north in North Jordan, later known as Taylorsville.

Robbie's grandfather, James Morgan Bateman, was one of the two youngest boys of Thomas and Mary Bateman's 12 children. Together with his younger brother William Lehi Bateman, James homesteaded 320 acres located half a mile north of Gardner's Mill, the hub of West Jordan. Later the two Bateman boys had found temporary jobs in Box Elder helping to finish the construction of the transcontinental

[1] I'll call him by all three names in this piece, but usually by Bob—try not to get confused.

railroad in 1869, when their sister Harriet introduced them to the Watkins sisters, Maria and Sophronia. Robbie's father, James Alphonso Bateman, was born in Brigham City on November 1, 1871, the first anniversary of James and Maria's wedding, but the new family was back in the homestead cabin in West Jordan by the time he was two weeks old, just a month before William and Sophronia were married, where the two couples lived with their widowed mother and their youngest sister Maggie. By 1876 their families had outgrown the cabin and they built onto it a long triplex adobe building beneath the western bluff of the Jordan River with a house for each of them and their mother.

William chiefly ran the farm and James managed the sheep, pooling their animals with the herds of their older brothers. Consequently, Phon[2] spent many of his younger days herding in the deserts west of Delta and of the Great Salt Lake. His father and uncle also hauled ore out of Bingham Canyon and did freighting and logging in other canyons west and east of the valley.

From left to right: James Morgan's house, William's house, their mother's house, and the old cabin. The family in the photo is William's.

Phon's formal schooling took place three months a year in a large tent called the Bowery, located next to the old rock ward house now known as the Pioneer Hall.[3] His mother tutored him the remainder of the time. Later he attended the John D. Peters[4] Academy in Brigham City, for a whole winter, which completed his formal education, probably living with his mother's parents or his Aunt Harriet Bateman Wight. In his spare time Phon was interested in sports, recognized as an outstanding pugilist, and attained the unofficial, but undisputed title of boxing champion of South Salt Lake County,[5] measuring six foot one and 210 pounds. He owned the first pair of boxing gloves in the valley. Later he served many times as a referee at local boxing bouts.[6] In 1891 Phon's father and his Uncle William were prosperous enough to build fine brick homes on top of the bluff fronting on current 1300 West and about 7200 South. By that time Phon was 21 years old, single, and working at the flour mill. Of his 10 younger siblings[7] aged 3-20, two had died, so it was with eight children that his father moved out of the adobe house into the new home.[8]

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[2] I'll henceforth usually refer to Robbie's father, James Alphonso, by his nickname "Phon."

[3] The building has been preserved and can be visited just east of the West Jordan Cemetery across from Gardner Village.

[4] Peters was a native of Perry in Box Elder County, a graduate of Logan High and Deseret Academy, later called the University of Utah. From 1883-87 he served as superintendent of schools in Brigham. That is probably when Phon studied with him.

[5] According to his obituary in 1959.

[6] His grandson LaVar Bateman wrote that Phon took him to see professional wrestling matches in Salt Lake City. He sponsored basketball teams, boxing, and wrestling sports in West Jordan. Rex Lane and Gene Fullmer, the former world middleweight champion boxer, came out of some of his programs.

[7] Maria would have one more child, Ezra Morgan Bateman, the following year.

[8] Five more of his siblings would die as young adults, mostly of tuberculosis.

Six months after the long awaited dedication of the Salt Lake Temple by President Wilford Woodruff, Phon married Parylee Pixton there on October 11, 1893, uniting the two pioneer families through their grandchildren.

Pary and Phon

Everyone called Phon's bride "Pary."[9] She was raised a few miles north of him in North Jordan. The newlyweds moved into the old triplex adobe house in which Phon had been raised down the bluff toward the Jordan River. Pary was two years younger, the oldest of nine children of Robert Pixton Jr. and Amelia Atwood. She had been blessed at six days of age in the North Jordan Branch[10] by Joseph Harker. After she turned eight, she was baptized in the canal behind the home of Archibald Frame, who provided sheds for changing clothes. I have little information about her childhood but discovered an interesting account of her family life in a talk given at her funeral in 1948 by Joseph Bennion, who had known her family in Taylorsville. He said,

> Brother Robert (Pary's father) was a son of Robert Pixton, one of the original forebears of this state and one of the members of the Mormon Battalion who made that memorable march and who came and settled on the west side of Jordan…. The home they built still stands today--a monument to him to his good wife and family--as one of the finest homes, and in that home this good woman's mother reigned as a queen among her family and community. No one ever entered that Pixton home but what they saw cleanliness, order, and friendliness. Robert Pixton was a very progressive man, being about the first in Taylorsville to have running water in his home and a real bathroom with hot and cold water. This was supplied from a large tank house where the tank was kept full with (the aid of) a windmill. His buggies were the finest and his horses beautiful. Water was also piped to the stock and the horses.

Robbie was not the first of Phon and Pary's children. He briefly had an older sister named Amelia Elizabeth, who was not yet two when he was born. When Robbie was an infant of two months, Amelia was accidentally killed by a flywheel from a threshing machine. It had been leaning against the fence in their yard, and she evidently tipped it upon herself when her father had stepped away for a moment.[11]

Note the flywheel driving the belt of this thresher operating in 1900.

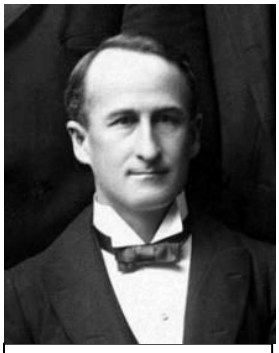
Two months after Amelia's death Phon was called on a mission to the southern states, leaving his grieving young wife Pary with their newborn boy. Phon recorded in his missionary journal on January 14, 1897, "I took breakfast at

[9] I will refer to Parylee as Pary.

[10] North Jordan was later known as Taylorsville.

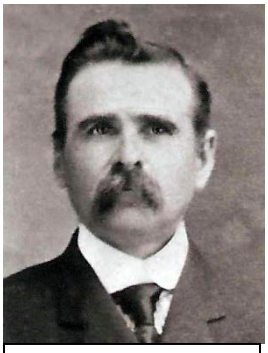
[11] Family accounts vary on this accident. Robert's widow, Rela McMullin, wrote that Amelia had been crushed by a millstone; others attribute it to a wagon wheel. My description is based on a brief article in the *Salt Lake Tribune* on October 14, 1896, the day after the accident.

home then took the height of Berty[12] by driving a tack in the door sill. Then came up to Mother's." He walked the mile and a half to Bingham Junction just across the Jordan River and boarded the train at 7:57 am, joining eight elders headed for Chattanooga, Tennessee, where they arrived on the 18th. One of Phon's biographers wrote that the only clothing he took with him was a spare pair of socks.



Elias Kimball

His mission president was Elias S. Kimball, a son of Heber C. Kimball and the 29th of the apostle's 43 wives, Christeen Golden. Elias was the older brother of the famous apostle, J. Golden Kimball. The president sent Phon to Mississippi, where he spent his entire mission. His first companion, selected by lot, was a 44-year-old named Christian Jensen Block. Elder Block was born in Denmark and married a Danish girl in Manti, Utah before Brigham Young sent them to colonize the San Louis Valley of southern Colorado at a settlement they named Ephraim near present day Sanford. The president of the Mississippi Conference was Frank Pomeroy, who had left Paris, Idaho at the age of seven with his family in 1877 as one of the first settlers of Mesa, Arizona.



Elder Block

Phon's first baptism (Elder Block did the honors) was in May 1897. There were two men, one boy, and two women, the first baptisms ever in Attala County. On the 17th Phon baptized four more and wrote a letter to nine month old Robbie two days later. There were other baptisms, but Elder Bateman's journal reflects a lot of hard times with sparse results, as one might expect from the Bible Belt in those days. He received regular letters from Pary, who had moved back to her family in Taylorsville with Robbie, and many letters from their parents and siblings. For example, he recorded on July 7, 1897, that he received letters from Pary and two of her younger sisters, Tacy and Lizzie, and one from his father with $5 in it. He bought pants with the money but didn't have enough left for shoes.

Phon carried around a photo of his family. He wrote that a Mr. Bramlet once told him, "If I had as good looking a woman as that I would leave and go right home." But Phon didn't--he still had a year and a half to go. He had his own photo taken that December and sent it to his family. In January 1898 as his second year began he attended a mission council, in which the Apostles Lyman and Cowley spoke to the elders. He saw Elder Block off for home and got a new companion, Elder Coles.[13] On March 21, 1898, he reported baptizing a 22 year old married woman and sent another letter to Robbie in June. That summer was hard for him because of ill health. He wrote in his journal on July 28, just prior to another mission council in Jackson, Mississippi,

Phon's mission photo

> Heavy fever came on me, very sick, vomiting, and severe headache. July 29: arose, felt better. July 30: Feeling very

[12] That would have been Robert.
[13] Fifty years later Coles spoke at Pary's funeral.

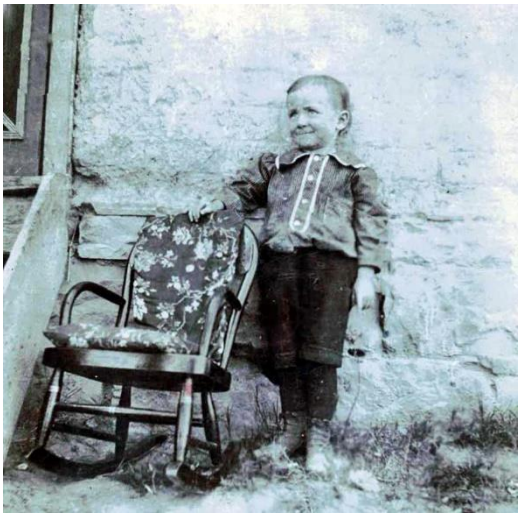
bad, glad to get to bed. August 1: I was too sick to get up so did not get to go. At noon President Condie, Elder Flake, and others administered to me I should go to meeting, which I did and spoke. At night wrote a letter to mother and one to Pary and went to bed.

This event made an impression on Elder Flake, who recorded the same event in his own journal, "Elder Bateman was suffering very much from a high fever and desired to be administered. He was instantly healed and attended the mission conference." However, Phon's fever came back after he gave his talk, and he remained sick until August 12.

Robbie's second birthday was the next day. Pary had a studio photograph of him taken along with her own six year old brother James LeRoy. Elder Bateman picked up the photo at the post office about a week later along with the pants, shirt, socks, and suspenders sent by his father, James Morgan Bateman.

Phon was sick again on the 25th with a chill and night sweats and remained sick through September 2. On October 2, his brother Joseph died in West Jordan at the age of 20. Phon had written once to "Joey" the previous July but there was no mention of the death in his journal. Elder Bateman was sick again on September 14 with a severe chill and sweating and got a "bad boil" on his hip. He was still unwell for several days in October.[14]

On January 3, 1899, his Christmas presents arrived along with several letters from family members. He got cuffs and a collar from Pary and "also 10 cents from my boy," who was by then 2 ½. Phon was transferred to Jackson late February to work in the mission headquarters, where he finished out his mission. The last entry in his mission journal was dated March 12, but he probably remained in the mission office until June when he returned to West Jordan.



Robbie was almost three when his father returned, about when the adjacent photograph was taken. The building in the background is the house that Phon and his family vacated eight years earlier when the brick house on 1300 West was completed on top of the bluff, and where Phon and Pary were living with Amelia before she died. In November Robbie's uncle Tom, the fifth of Phon's siblings to die young, died at the age of 16, cause unknown. By then Phon was back to working at the flour mill. Eventually three more of Phon's brothers would die under the age of 36.

About nine months after Phon's return, Pary had a little girl named Cleo on March 26, 1900. That year four year old Robbie fell out of a mill wagon, lacerating his right eyeball on a piece of coal and permanently losing the

[14] The recurring fever and chills over months suggest to me the diagnosis of malaria.

sight in it. The wagon was being driven by his father Phon, who was unloading 180 lb. bags of corn from a railway boxcar for the West Jordan Milling Company, the successor to Gardner's Mill at the same location. According to the family's account, Pary refused to allow the doctors to remove Robbie's eye despite their recommendation.

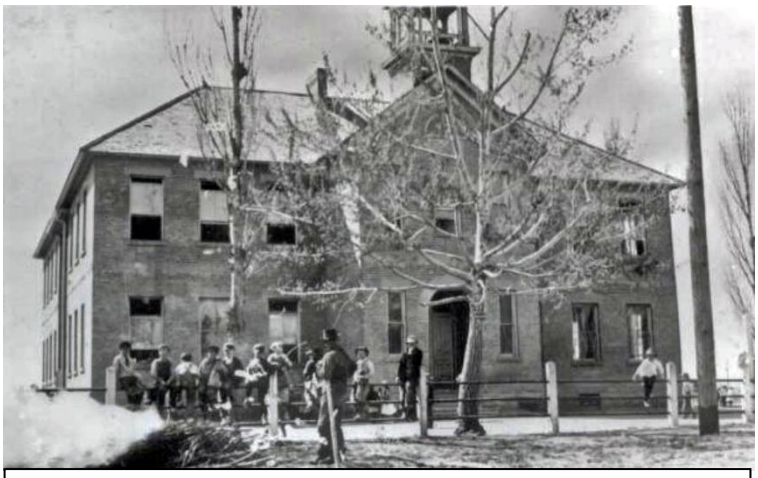
West Jordan Flour Mills around 1900. Phon is in the wagon with the dark horses.

There were eight people in Phon and Pary's household according to the United States census when it was counted on June 7, 1900. Robert was three, just two months short of his fourth birthday, and his parents were 29 and 27.[15] Cleo was two months old. Phon was listed as a teamster. Also in the household were a 10 year old "niece," Anabell Wright, who was born in Arizona, and two adult males, Herbert Harr, a 31 year old from Mississippi, and Jacob Luck, a 26 year old from Kentucky.

Actually, Anabell was not their niece. She was a daughter of George Wright, one of Phon's neighbors. George had moved his second wife down to St. John's, Arizona around 1885 to escape polygamy persecution and Anabell had been born there. I don't know why she was living with Batemans--her mother and three siblings were actually living in Salt Lake City at that time, but later returned to St.

[15] Mysteriously, Amelia was also shown on the census as a five-year-old although there is a burial record for her at the West Jordan cemetery in 1896 as well as the newspaper account of her death. Three different family accounts also confirm the 1896 death date.

John's, and Anabell returned with them.[16] "Harr" was John Herbert Horr, whom Phon had known on his mission although not mentioned in his mission journal. When Herbert Horr was only a year old, his father was the mayor of Brookhaven, Mississippi. He was assassinated in 1870 by a brick thrown through his window, striking him in the head. I was able to find Herbert Horr mentioned around the time of Phon's mission in a Mississippi newspaper article about the Mormons, "trying to convert the natives as if he were a missionary."[17] Jacob Luck was from Kentucky, a painter who later worked as a miner in Nevada and California. Since the adobe house was actually a triplex, Pary and Phon were probably taking in boarders.



Bell Tower School, West Jordan

Robert's only brother, Earl Preston Bateman (known as Pres), was born November 25, 1902, when Robert was six and in his first year of school. At that time Theodore Roosevelt was the president of the United States, and the next year the Wright Brothers were flying airplanes they had made in their bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio on the windy beach at Kittyhawk, North Carolina. Robert attended the "Bell Tower School" located on the southwest corner of the intersection of Redwood Road and the Bingham Highway (7800 South) and north of the yellow brick church building. It was a four-room, two-story building with a prominent bell tower on its roof. The custodian rang the bell at exactly 8:30 each morning to let people know that school was about to begin, and a tardiness ring sounded at 9:00. The children could get a drink during school breaks at a well across Redwood Road. There was no indoor plumbing.[18]

Ezra, Lafayette, and Nettie

On June 18, 1904, Robert's grandfather James Morgan Bateman died at the age of 62 of chronic nephritis in the brick house that he had built on 13th West. His wife Maria Louisa was 53 and still had three children living in the brick home with her: Reinetta "Nettie," who was 18, Lafayette, 16, and Ezra, 12. According to the brief biography of Robert by his future wife Rela McMullin, Phon and Pary moved into his parents' brick house sometime after Robbie was baptized by his father on August 13. At that

[16] Anabell is not the only foster child to live with Phon and Pary. In Phon's biography two other foster children are named, Faye Broadhead and Eddie Edwards. These were remembered by the older children, so were probably around James Robert's age or slightly younger.

[17] Perhaps he was a home missionary. His mother and three siblings joined the church around 1900 and all migrated to Utah in the several years after John Herbert was living with the Batemans. His two brothers ran a bicycle repair business in Utah.

[18] From Life Sketch of Earl Preston Bateman.

time the family consisted of Robbie, Cleo, and Pres. Pary was pregnant with Lavern Orinda, who was born in October.

Phon's mother Maria Louisa and his three unmarried siblings moved out of the house and settled just north of Phon's family on other parts of her late husband's property, which had been divided up among his surviving sons. In addition to the brick house, Phon's share of his father's homestead was 22 acres of farmland stretching eastward down the bluff toward the Jordan River.

When Robert was eight the whole family contracted typhoid fever, the disease that would end his life 24 years later. He is said to have heroically toted water to them from the neighbors' well on the next farm until he himself became too sick to do it. They all recovered.

About 1906 when Robert turned 10, his father went to work at the smelter, where he remained for the next 39 years. That is the year when open pit mining began at Bingham, and several smelters around the Bingham railway junction, now known as Midvale, were consolidated into a single entity called United States Smelting, Refining, and Mining Company or USSRM,[19] which specialized in refining lead ore from Bingham and other Utah mines. Phon was widely known for walking the two miles to the smelter and back every day, even in winter, never accepting a lift. He stayed fit that way, without an ounce of fat according to the stories. He eventually became foreman of the bag house division.

That was the year of the San Francisco earthquake, which killed 500 people. In November, Edna Bateman was born on Pres' fourth birthday.

That was about when Robbie was kicked by a horse, which his father had just unhitched from the buggy in the yard. When Robbie slapped it on the rear with the lines to go into the barn, it kicked him in the face, breaking his jaw in two places and fracturing his nose and caving in his face.[20] During his surgery at L.D.S. Hospital for the accident, the doctor also removed his previously-blinded right eye, telling the family that Robert would have otherwise become blind in his good eye within a few days.[21] The family felt that the horse kick had been providential, as it led to the preservation of Bob's sight in the good eye. He spent many months in the hospital, coming home only for Christmas and his birthday in August. In one history, he is said to have been hospitalized an entire year. He was provided with a glass eye, which he removed every night, and most people who knew him were unaware of it. His future wife Rela and his son LaVar wrote in their joint biography of Robert:

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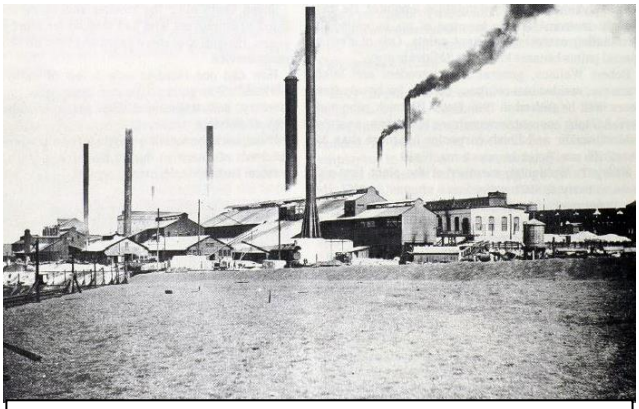
[19] By 1916, USSRM was the second largest smelting company in the United States.

[20] This was the third serious injury to one Phon's children while directly in his care. That must have troubled him.

[21] The loss of a person's good eye after trauma to the other is called sympathetic ophthalmia (SO) and was described by Hippocrates in ancient Greece. It can occur from days to years after an accident, although usually within three months. There was special interest in the disease in the early 1900s when medicine was becoming more academic, leading to the excessive practice of removing of all severely injured eyes to prevent blindness in the opposite eye. Louis Braille, who invented a reading and writing system for the blind, is thought to have suffered sympathetic ophthalmia, and it is also thought to have caused the blindness of James Thurber, an American author who was born two years before Robert Bateman. Hans Ulrich Bryner, Jr., the grandfather of Robert's widow Rela McMullin, also experienced SO, becoming totally blind after injuring one eye in an accident. The damage to the good eye is caused by a delayed allergic reaction to the melanin released by the injured eye. Prophylactic removal of traumatized eyes is rarely done now, since sympathetic ophthalmia occurs only about three times in every 1,000 blinding injuries and can usually be treated with medications.

His face remained permanently scarred but his sparkling eyes and personality made you forget the problem as you got to know him. He was a lot of fun in a crowd yet humbled through his affliction. He made friends wherever he went but was ever conscious of his eye. His own children did not even know about it until his mother told them after his death.



Midvale Smelter viewed from the south in 1902

On January 29, 1907, Phon was involved in an accident at the smelter. The next day's newspaper reported his condition as critical: "Fears were entertained that he would not recover." The paper explained that there had been a similar explosion a few weeks earlier at the same smelter which was caused by the "dope" being placed into the converter while it was still wet. In the explosion which followed there had been an overflow of the molten lava, which struck Phon in the abdomen, badly burning him. He was said in the article to have been unconscious for some time. He was removed to his home, where he was attended by Doctor Ferrebee.[22] Phon was 37 at the time and Robbie, who was probably still in the L.D.S. Hospital recovering from his own accident, was 10. Despite the fact that the molten slag struck him on the abdomen, Phon received no burns wherever his temple garments covered his skin, which was considered by his family a sign of divine intervention, but his face and hands were severely burned.[23] He sued the company for damages due to negligence in May of 1908 and won a verdict of $5,665.

Robbie's future wife, Rela McMullin, moved to South Jordan with her family from Green River, Utah in April 1907 when she was nine, a year younger than he. They probably did not meet each other until high school since she went to grade school in South Jordan. According to her brother Urban, the McMullin children started school in the old adobe church where the road runs into the South Jordan cemetery until a new school was built of red brick on the corner of 10400 South and 13th West at the top of the hill. Rela later wrote that she fell behind in her schooling due to two moves by her family just as she was approaching school age. They had moved from Price to Green River, Utah in 1905 where there was a single school room with one teacher teaching all eight grades, and they lived three miles away. Still, her father was proud that she had learned her times tables through the nines by the time they arrived in South Jordan, where she was put into a class with her age group in third grade.

A Swedish immigrant named Carl E. Gaufin was administrator of the Jordan School District, which consisted of about 16 elementary schools over the southern part of the Salt Lake Valley. He was tasked in 1907 to organize a system of secondary education and began by adding a ninth grade class of eleven

[22] Dr. Wiley E. Ferrebee was the public health officer in Murray. The non-Mormon doctor from North Carolina was in the newspapers in December 1902 for prosecuting Murray residents who resisted quarantine and were concealing smallpox infections. The penalty was a $300 fine or six months in prison. He was a controversial figure, being sued for malpractice multiple times and for his own failure to report smallpox cases. Before 1910 he moved to the state of Washington where he became a bank president.

[23] I knew Phon when he was an old man and can remember his face looking transparent and red from his burn scars.

students to the existing grade school in Midvale. In the fall of 1908, Enoch Jorgensen[24] was brought up from Provo to be the principal of Jordan High, the third secondary school in Utah after the Ogden and Salt Lake high schools.[25] Fifty-one new freshmen and two teachers were squeezed into three rooms of the Central (Elementary) School building in Midvale along with seven sophomores from the previous year. In the fall of 1909 Jordan High officially began in that building with 127 students in three grades.

Phon and Pary had another girl that year whom they named Norma Enid, and Robert was in seventh grade. In April 1910 the census showed that the Bateman family had grown to eight. Robert was by then 13 and had five siblings ages one through 10. The family had taken in another foster child named John L. Ellsbury who was eight, the same age as Robert's brother Pres. John Ellsbury's father had died in 1908 in Springville, Linn, Iowa, and his mother moved the family to Salt Lake City, where she also died a year later, leaving John and his brothers Gerald and Howard (ages 16 and 18) as orphans.[26] I don't know how long John Ellsbury lived with the Batemans, but he was eventually married and living in Box Elder County by 1930. Phon was listed as "James A." in the census, a laborer at the smelter. By then he had been working there for about four years.

Robbie's widowed grandmother, Maria Louisa Bateman,[27] is shown in the census as head of her household which included her 21 year old son Lafayette and her married daughter Nettie (Reinetta) with Nettie's husband Lars M. Christenson and two month old son named Wilmer. Next door were Maria's married sons William H. and Louis W. with their young families. Four families are shown on the census living between them and Phon's family in the brick house his father had built. Ezra, Phon's youngest brother, was not living on the homestead at the time of the census. He had married a 19 year old girl from Heber named Ella Winterrose when he was still two months shy of 17. They were living with their four month old daughter Jennie in Lark, a mining town up Butterfield Canyon about 12 miles away, where Ezra had found work as a gold miner.

Ella and Ezra Bateman

Pary bore another daughter named Nora on May 15, 1911. That month Phon was made first counselor to Bishop William H. Gardner in the West Jordan Ward with Joseph G. Jensen as second counselor. He was ordained a high priest by Francis M. Lyman on May 28 and

[24] Jorgensen was born in Ephraim in 1867. He graduated from Brigham Young Academy in 1889 and became principal at the Wasatch Stake Academy in Heber for several years and served missions to Chicago and Scandinavia before taking the job at Jordan High.

[25] A small high school was begun the same year in the Bingham mining district with 12 students, but it was later combined with Jordan High.

[26] John also had two older brothers, who were married and living in Salt Lake.

[27] Maria Louisa and James Morgan Bateman had 11 children—nine boys and two girls. Maria outlived eight of them. She lost boys at the ages of 37, 20, 5, 31, 16, 27, 3 months, and a girl at the age of 23.

was still serving in the bishopric when Robert married and moved out of the house in 1919.[28]

From the time he had recovered from his facial injury it appears that Bob was required to take over much of the farm work for his father, as Phon was busy with a demanding full time job at the smelter, especially after he was called to the bishopric. Bob's brother Pres didn't turn nine until November 1911.[29] The huge dose of farming on his father's place primed Bob for his interest in studying agriculture.

The Batemans kept a very large garden and had a couple of cows and some livestock. There was fresh spring water coming out of the hillside and there were old cattle trails. Grain and hay were grown each year on the farm. Pary loved to cook—no one ever visited their house who was not offered food--and her garden behind the shed was said to be unbelievable. She kept wild yellow and pink rosebushes in front of her home on 13th West along the ditch bank. The family always knelt in prayer at mealtime, and the prayers were always long. Phon was a personal friend of the future prophet, Joseph Fielding Smith, so no face cards were allowed. The house was said to have a beautiful bathroom, but it was not plumbed and never used for its intended purpose. Parylee did most of her cooking on a coal stove on the porch behind the kitchen. When she cooked for special occasions she put boards across the unused tub in the bathroom to cool and store the pies.

Bob's father, James Alphonso (Phon) Bateman, with my cousin Cheryl and me around 1953.

From the time he was baptized until he left home to attend college, Bob lived with his family in the brick house his deceased grandfather, James Morgan Bateman had built in 1891, and he later returned there to stay with his parents during his final illness, as we shall soon discuss. Phon remained in that house until his death in 1959.

In June 1911 Robert graduated from eighth grade along with his second cousin, George Q. Bateman, and 25 other West Jordan students. A year older, George had grown up near Bob and was a grandson of Samuel Bateman.[30] The two boys were preparing to enter Jordan High School, which had just graduated its first 11 seniors. In those years only about a quarter of the eligible students in the district were advancing beyond the eighth grade. That fall the high school, which was still located in the grade school building, expanded into rooms volunteered by the Midvale L.D.S. chapel. The enrollment was 175 with

[28] After his release from the bishopric in 1920, James Alphonso Bateman served in the stake MIA and Sunday School presidencies. He was ordained a patriarch August 16, 1931, by his friend, Joseph Fielding Smith, and served in that calling until his death in 1959.

[29] After Robert left the family, Pres farmed his father's land for many years to allow his father to work full time at the smelter.

[30] Samuel had been a bodyguard to Brigham Young, John Taylor, and Wilford Woodruff.

seven regular teachers. The overcrowding was so severe that classes had to be held in the principal's office. There were 17 graduates in June 1912.

In Robert's sophomore year there were 204 students of which 23 were from West Jordan. That year the school organized an Agricultural Club, which would set the direction for the rest of Bob and George's lives.

That was the year when Rela McMullin finished her elementary schooling in South Jordan. She later wrote that she had struggled in the early grades, but received a gold watch at graduation from primary school in eighth grade.[31]

Rela is far left on the first row of her eighth grade graduation class in South Jordan May 31,1913.

Early in Bob's junior year the cornerstones for the new high school were laid and Rela McMullin became a freshman student. She worked as an associate art editor of the *Courier*, the school literary magazine which later evolved into a typical high school yearbook. According to the *Courier*, the Ag Club was the "liveliest" organization in the school. There were 40 members total, including eight honorary members and three alumni. They debated against the Ag Club at the new Granite High and hosted regular lectures by professors of agronomy from the Agricultural College in Logan. The purpose of the club was "to promote scientific agriculture throughout the district," by getting in touch with the local farmers. One day each year was Aggie Club Day for the members to visit local farms. The club developed a library of 1,500 bulletins and other agricultural literature which was open to the students and all others. On its pages in the *Courier* the club's purpose was clearly stated:

> Ag is the chief industrial activity in Jordan School District. Farmers themselves acknowledge they are not keeping pace with other progressive localities in the state in that line of work. The new high school will have a 10 acre farm for demonstrations, hoping to prepare students as farm operators and give good general foundation for moving on to the Agricultural College and more advanced work.

The boys wore suit and ties to class. Jordan H.S. 1920.

[31] By modern standards, Rela was two years behind her grade level, but of the 13 children in her graduating class half were older than she, including two 17-year-olds.

Bob and his cousin George were two of the 29 boys in the Agricultural Club. Bob is shown sitting right beside the principal, Enoch Jorgenson. Earl Bennion was the organizer[32] of the club and it was Heber J. Webb,[33] the Salt Lake County Agricultural Agent, who taught the classes. I think Webb is seated immediately in front of Bob. The school offered courses in general agriculture, animal husbandry, horticulture, and agronomy.

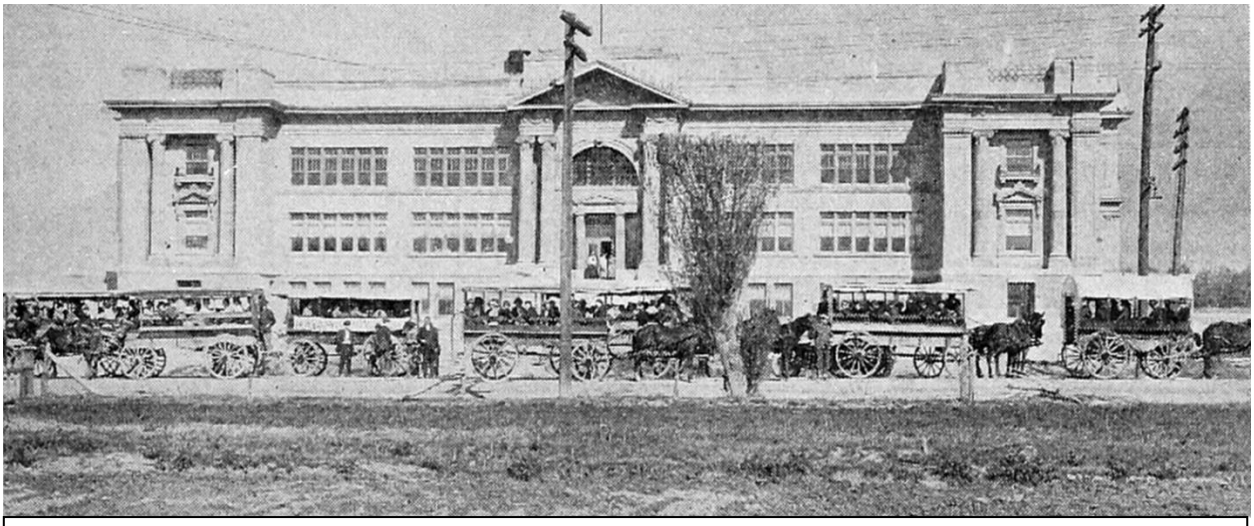
Bob's sister Edith was born May 22. Immediately following the end of the school year on June 28, 1914, the Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated in Bosnia. Things were soon to change for everyone.

The school year 1914-1915 was the year of the move to the new high school under a new principal, Dr. Henry Peterson. Robert was a senior. The school year began with a "roundup," which was a family open house in the new school. There was also a "Winter Course" to recruit non-students of high school age, many of whom attended the next year. The new high school supported 16 grade schools located

[32] Earl Bennion was raised in Taylorsville, where he was known as the planter of the town's largest apple orchard. His family were dairy farmers. He began college in 1901 at the University of Utah where he and his brothers anchored the football team before he decided to transfer to the Utah State Agricultural College to pursue agronomy under John A. Widtsoe, the manager of the state experimental dairy farm in Logan. Bennion continued to play football for the Aggies, but also was senior class president and one of 10 graduates in agriculture. He took a job in 1910 teaching high school agriculture in Salt Lake City and became a noted traveling speaker on scientific farming throughout the state before returning to his family dairy in Taylorsville. His role in the Jordan High Agricultural club was as an advisor.

[33] Webb was also educated by John A. Widtsoe at USAC. He grew up in Washington County and studied in Logan at the Agricultural College and taught entomology in 1912, specializing in the alfalfa weevil.

up to 18 miles away, and Jordan had one of the first school bus programs in the nation—note the horse-drawn wagons[34] in the photo. The district had 3,657 students of which Jordan High had 378.



Jordan High School in 1920
By Internet Archive Book Images - https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=57938784

By December 1914, trench warfare was at a standoff at Marne, France. America was trying to stay out of the war in Europe, but on May 17, 1915, a German U-boat sank the Lusitania, killing 1,200 including 128 Americans, which fanned pro-war sentiment.

The following month Robert and George Q. Bateman graduated from Jordan High School. George was a student body officer and on the track squad. He was also the "jokes editor" of the *Courier* and participated in plays. After a summer of preparation and saving money they both enrolled in the agriculture program at Logan. The entire college had 855 students.

George Q. Bateman

The fall of Robert's freshman year in Logan, his father's youngest brother, Lafayette Bateman, died at the age of 27 of tuberculosis, leaving a wife and two children ages one and three. The Agricultural College student newspaper reported April 28, 1916, that Robert had again been called home to West Jordan on account of the death of his grandfather, Robert Pixton.

Rela

I assume that Robert and George were back home each summer, working on farms and trying to earn enough money for their schooling. Both returned for a second year in the fall of 1916.

That was Rela McMullin's senior year at Jordan High. She was only a year younger than Bob but was two years behind him in school. In her graduating class were her older sister Flavo, who had missed even more years of school than Rela, and Robert Pixton, a cousin of Bob Bateman's on his mother's side. Robert

[34] The wheels were replaced with sled runners in the winter.

Pixton was advertising manager of the *Courier* and on the football team. It turned out to be a year of interruptions. In October 1916 high school was closed for three weeks due to a labor shortage. Then Rela resigned from her post as editor of student publications (the *Courier*) to Corinne Edwards and dropped out of school after Christmas to take care of her mother. It is not clear to me what illness her mother may have had other than trying to bear and raise a dozen children, but Rela wrote that she and the other two oldest daughters took turns dropping out of school each year to help her. On March 25, 1917, Utah's Governor Bamberger issued a proclamation encouraging all young men to enlist in the Utah National Guard. This included many boys at Jordan High School, not to mention the colleges. During Rela's senior year at Jordan High, 16 of her classmates enlisted along with seven of the previous year's class, and six more were expected to enlist by June 1.

On April 6, 1917, the United States formally declared war on Germany.[35]

Naomi Pixton

Despite her premature withdrawal from school, Rela was asked to give a dramatic reading at graduation. Decades later, still miffed, she wrote that she had deserved to be the valedictorian, but the honor was given to Naomi Pixton because her father was a member of the school board.[36] Although she and Bob Bateman were from different towns and were two classes apart in school, it seems that they must have been acquainted in a school with only 378 students, but she insisted that their romance did not begin in high school. There is some evidence of that in the *Courier* that year, which posted this poem by Rela's graduation photo: "Fully many a gem of purest ray serene, the deep unfathomed caves of ocean see; full many a flower is born to blush unseen and waste its sweetness on a boy named Lee."[37]

Winifred Peterson

There is evidence that Robert also had a romantic interest around that time. On June 17, 1917, the society section of the *Salt Lake Republican Herald* reported, "Robert Bateman of West Jordan and Miss Winifred Peterson[38] of Riverton were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Williams in Magna on Sunday."

Anyone who had joined the Utah National Guard on the governor's advice was soon in the regular army, for the entire guard was drafted on August 5, 1917, and sent to California for training and eventually to Europe. By the end of the First World War, 21,000 Utah men served, 665 died (219 on the battlefield), and 864 were wounded.

[35] Fort Douglas, Utah played a big role in the war. Thousands of recruits were trained there, and it served as a prison for 870 "enemy aliens," pro-German immigrants who opposed the war or were otherwise suspicious, plus draft resistors from states west of the Mississippi. Later in the war the fort also housed 686 German Navy prisoners. https://www.uen.org/utah_history_encyclopedia/w/WWI.shtml

[36] He was indeed on the school board, and also president of the Midvale Bank and a state legislator.

[37] I suspect this referred to George Lee Sharp from Midvale, who was also a 1917 Jordan graduate who eventually earned a degree in English from the University of Utah or possibly a neighbor boy, Lee Allen Beckstead.

[38] Winifred was the 18 year old daughter of a Danish immigrant. She married in 1921. Wallace Williams was a native of West Jordan, a carpenter who had become the Employment Director for Utah Copper Company.

L-R: Unknown girl, Elgin, Bob, Robert Pixton, Rela.

After graduation Rela took a job at Booth's Mercantile Store in Midvale, fearing her father would not be able to afford college for her to study art. But she lucked out when a friend of hers got married and dropped out of a deal with three other former Jordan High girls to share living expenses with a group of four boys in Logan: Bob Bateman, his freshman cousin Robert Pixton, and fellow Jordan High graduates Fay Stewart and Elgin Morris. The girls were to do all the cooking, washing, of clothes, ironing, etc., and the boys paid the rent. They all helped with the buying of groceries and brought food from home. The girls had access to a downstairs kitchen but lived above it in a single room. The boys had their own attic room in the house of a new professor named Willard Gardner, a former Aggie undergraduate student with a PhD in physics from Berkley, who had just been hired to be part of the faculty of the Experimental Farm. When he was a freshman in Logan, Gardner had roomed in the house next door, married the landlord's daughter, and built a house with his own hands while finishing his undergraduate degree. He had been recruited back to Logan that fall, moved his wife and three small children into the house he had built, and rented space to students.[39]

Professor Gardner's son later described the house. It was a square bungalow made of secondhand lumber with four rooms downstairs and two upstairs and a cellar below. It had no running water, but there was a convenient hydrant near the front door and a two-hole outhouse in the rear. There were kerosene lights and coal range in the kitchen and a small hot blast heater in the living room. There were three electrical outlets, an electric bulb dangling from the ceiling, and a telephone connection. Dr. Gardner kept the upstairs rooms filled with students.

Willard Gardner house 696 E. 4th North, Logan. (note hydrant)

[39] Dr. Gardner turned out to be an outstanding hire. In 1920 he co-authored two revolutionary articles on the physics of farming with Dr J.E. Greaves that were published in *Soil Science* which described a mathematical constant to calculate capillary stream in soils. He became known as the "Father of Soil Physics in the United States."

Dr. R. O. Porter

Soon after arrival Rela encountered Dr. Porter,[40] the college doctor, for a check-up, who decreed she needed her tonsils removed. When she went home to her roommates after the surgery she began to hemorrhage, and the boys were called over to help. Bob and his cousin Robert Pixton gave her a blessing that was so impressive Rela decided "a boy that age with so much faith was worth considering." They began to date. Bob left no written record of this or any other part of his life, and Rela's autobiography covers their time in college in two sentences ending with the purchase of a wedding ring the following year, but some good inferences can be made from other sources.

Bob on the left and Rela on the far right.

In October of Rela's first year, Bob was home in West Jordan long enough to be ordained an elder by Charles E. Steadman in the West Jordan Ward, president of the quorum. This was while his father was still in the bishopric. Bob was likely home again when his grandmother Maria Watkins Bateman died in December at the age of 67 with a pulmonary fibroid, phlebitis, and chronic mitral valve disease.

Bob's high school agriculture teacher, Heber J. Webb, was now on the Agricultural College faculty as an assistant professor of farm management. Like Dr. Gardner, he had returned to work at the Experimental Farm in Logan.

Photos from Rela's personal album of "the plunge," the student swimming pool, give a rare indication of the couple's social life.

Rela in art class, far right, probably spring 1918.

This was Bob's junior year, which he seemed to have totally devoted to agronomy and the Experiment Station. His roommates branched out more. Elgin Morris was a debater and member of the Agora club. Elgin and Robert Pixton joined the Phi Cappa Iota fraternity. Rela joined the Home Economics Club and was part of the Art Guild. At the end of that school year, the *Salt Lake Herald Republican* reported that Bob Bateman was elected editor of the *Agricultural Club Link*, the journal of the agriculture department.

[40] Dr. Ralph O. Porter had been hired by the college a year earlier to provide student health services fresh out of medical school at Rush and Harvard. He was 29 years old and had a clinic in the gymnasium which housed the "Big Plunge" pool. He had been an undergraduate at the U.A.C.

Bob's other cousin, George Q. Bateman, did not return to college that year. On March 20, 1918, he enlisted in the army and progressed from private to sergeant in two weeks. He was overseas in France from July 9, 1918 to March 12, 1919, driving an ambulance on the front lines. In June, Bob registered for the draft. He was 21 years of age, stating that he was working for himself in Taylorsville—this would have been during summer break from college. Noted: "Eyes blue, hair brown, tall and slender build. R. eye out." He was disqualified for duty because of the eye by the registrar, Seth Pixton, who was probably Bob's mother's uncle. Later, Rela wrote: "He felt it keenly when he wasn't accepted to go into the service."

The next school year, 1918-19, should have been Bob's senior year, but neither he nor Rela were in school. If they went to Logan at all that September it didn't last long, for the great Spanish flu influenza epidemic hit Utah that month. On September 20, 1918, the *Salt Lake Telegram* carried the advice of Dr. Samuel G. Paul, Salt Lake City Health Commissioner, to "hooverize[41] on kissing," advising that this and similar simple measures such as sneezing or coughing into a handkerchief would suffice to control the feared epidemic, which many thought had been planted by German agents. Cases had already been reported in California and Washington. On October 4th Dr. Paul reported Utah's first cases in a few homes on West South Temple Street, but quarantines would not be issued--and then everything changed. The next day the entrainment[42] of 450 Utah draftees was held up as a precaution. Five days later the state health commissioner and board of health ordered all churches, public schools and universities, theaters, movie houses, public meetings, pool halls, dance halls, and private dances closed and prohibited public gatherings of all kinds effective the morning of October 10. Red Cross officials began renovating Judge Mercy Hospital for flu cases and instructed all other city hospitals to stop accepting them. On October 17 Fort Douglas issued a quarantine preventing any soldiers from leaving and any civilians from entering. Masks were made mandatory in all public places nine days later, and by the end of the month quarantine signs were placed on 2,000 homes. On November 1, protests broke out in Salt Lake City, and some other Utah cities were rejecting the quarantine orders. Cases were beginning to plateau, but public celebrations of Armistice Day on November 11 provoked a new surge.

Flavo McMullin

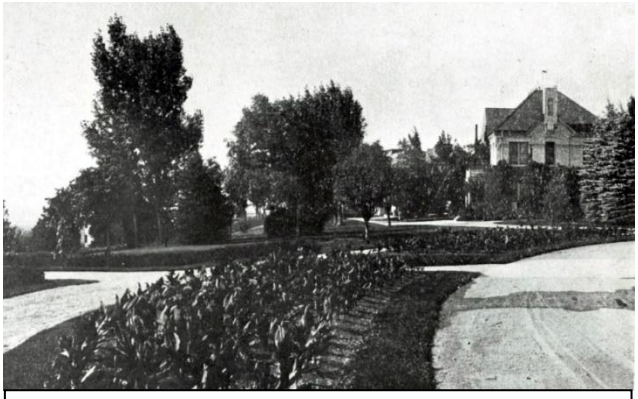
Rural Utah was hit particularly hard. The sugar factory in Delta was converted to a hospital for influenza victims[43] and Rela's older sister Flavo, who had been teaching school in that town, volunteered to help as a nurse. Sadly, she was stricken by the flu herself and never fully regained her health. Panguitch, where the Batemans would be living the next year was hit especially hard. The first week in January most of the population had flu, requiring two or three doctors from Parowan and other towns to help care for the critically ill. So many died that it was difficult to properly

[41] This word "hooverize" became popular in 1917 when Herbert Hoover, then head of the U.S. Food administration, encouraged citizens to eat less to save food for soldiers.
[42] That must have meant their transport to out of state bases by train.
[43] Salt Lake Tribune, October 22, 1918.

bury the dead.[44] There was no time for regular funerals. Graves were dug by three men continually. One of them, James L. Miller, went every day to the cemetery to dedicate graves before attending to his livestock. Some burials took place under car headlights as the electric lights of the town had "frozen up."

Despite resistance, the ban on public meetings persisted until January 1919. Utah reported over 10,000 cases of influenza, nine percent of the population, with 576 deaths mostly among young adults. Half of all student soldiers at the University of Utah (their version of ROTC, I suppose), were infected and 28 of them died. By 1920 there were 20 million deaths worldwide including 500,000 Americans.

Jordan High School remained closed until January 27, 1919. School resumed about that time at the Agricultural College in Logan, but without Bob and Rela. The student body that year was reduced by half. The college yearbook, the *Buzzer*, was dedicated that year to the 19 students who died in the war (and another seven after publication.)



U.S.A.C. Experimental Farm

The flu, the war, and the drop in students did not slow the impressive growth of the Experimental Farm in Logan, which can be largely attributed to its energetic leader. Franklin D. Harris had been recruited to Logan by John A. Widtsoe in 1907 and invited to live in his household when the future apostle was promoted from head of the Experimental Farm to college president. After a short stint, Harris went to Cornell for a PhD in agronomy, and then returned to USAC where he became Robert Bateman's major professor and head of the Experimental Farm. There he built a powerhouse program. By 1919 the Experiment Station had a faculty of 38 including 11 PhD professors and was a separate department from Agriculture, which a faculty of only 17 with six PhDs. There were only 21 faculty members in the all the rest of the sciences.

In the meantime, Bob and Rela became engaged. I am not certain exactly when that happened. Rela wrote that part of the reason Bob stayed out of school that year was to earn money for their engagement ring, which Bob purchased for $91 at J. S. Jensen and Sons Jewelers on February 16, 1919. It was only the 18th check written on his seldom-used account at Midvale State Bank. She described the ring as white gold built up with a lacy setting. They were married in the Salt Lake Temple June 26, 1919 and held their reception around the dinner table of Annie McMullin, Rela's mother.

[44] Newell and Talbot, *History of Garfield County*, p. 259.

Bob had basically been raised in a family of girls. In addition to Amelia, who had died when he was an infant, his wedding was attended by six living sisters ages 5-19 and his brother Pres, who was sixteen. As far as I can determine, Bob is the only one of his family to have gone to high school, let alone college.

Seated L-R: Robert, Phon, Edith, Pary, Pres
Standing: Nora, Edna, Cleo, LaVern, Norma

The *Salt Lake Tribune* reported on July 20, 1919, that Robert and Rela motored up Provo Canyon to Heber City and back through Parley's canyon with his parents and 20 others from West Jordan including many close friends and family members.

By September Bob and Rela were back in Logan for Bob's delayed senior year. Rela started her second year as a sophomore under her new married name. Robert Pixton, who had been Rela's classmate at Jordan High, was there as a junior, and so was George Q. Bateman, having returned after two years away at war and recently married to Mary Edith Cundick of West Jordan. Both George and Robert were participating in the Ag Club.

Since Rela had by then completed a year of college she felt free to take a lighter, more appropriate load of classes including mothercraft, home nursing, and China painting. She produced a complete set of dishes with tiny flower designs, which she later passed on individually to her granddaughters. She wrote that Bob had "a beautiful voice and sang solos a lot in public as well as being in the school chorus." Rela also wrote that he studied voice at Logan.

Robert in the college Glee Club 1920

Their first child, LaVar, was probably conceived around October 10, so she may not have known she was pregnant until after Thanksgiving. She must have dropped out of school and remained in West Jordan after the holidays, for she and Bob appeared together in the 1920 census in January next to Phon and Pary's family, probably living in the cabin down the hill in which Bob had been born. Rela was about four months pregnant. Robert's seven siblings ages 5-19 were living at home with his parents.

In April Rela's older sister Flavo died at the age of 24 at her parents' home in South Jordan. Flavo's death certificate gave tuberculosis of the lungs and intestines as the cause, but she had never fully recovered from her influenza.

The Agricultural College was looking for a high altitude location for an experimental farm and had bought the former Indian school in Panguitch at 6,666 feet elevation.[45] Robert Bateman was chosen to manage it. In May he accompanied his professor, Franklin Harris, to Panguitch to be oriented to the farm.[46] On May 31, 1920, along with 15 other seniors Robert graduated from the USAC at Logan with high honors in animal husbandry and agronomy.

Just a week later on June 6, Rela delivered a five pound baby boy two weeks ahead of schedule and came near dying of toxemia[47] at the home of Bob's parents. She was comatose during the delivery and did not know that she had a boy until three days afterward. Bob's father Phon knelt frequently at the bedside and prayed for her recovery. While she was in critical condition at her in-laws', her parents were dealing with illness at their own home. Rela's 14 month old brother, Jairus Ray, had acute ilio-colitis and died on June 11. She was confined to bed in West Jordan for 26 days, and then was taken to her parents' house. During her convalescence in West Jordan, Bob was ordained a seventy.

They named their baby James LaVar[48] when he was blessed in South Jordan the first Sunday in July. Sometime that month Robert went ahead to Panguitch to prepare their new home and to begin his

[45] Actually, the USAC ran eight experimental farms. The main one was in North Logan (Greenville), two miles north of the campus. It consisted of 45 acres of irrigated land, which had been studied since 1900 with two newer portions of 10 acres set aside in 1920 and 1921 to study pasture grasses. The Nephi farm was 103 acres on the main highway, established in 1903 specializing in dry farming. The third farm was in Davis County, about 19 miles from Ogden and from Salt Lake. It was opened in 1920 around the time of the Panguitch farm and specialized in truck crops such as onions, tomatoes, peas, lettuce, celery, strawberries, and corn. There was a farm of 40 acres in Widtsoe, Garfield County, about 35 miles west of Panguitch at 7,800 feet elevation to study high altitude dry farming. The Kanab farm of 40 acres was at 5,700 feet, also specializing in dry farming, but was inactive from 1922 to 1925 due to draught. The Panguitch farm was the sixth, consisting of 106 acres with a house and barn. It was first envisioned as a dairy farm but soon switched to producing breeding animals in order to help the local cattle industry. The Conquist Dairy farm was 86 acres in North Logan a few miles west of the main farm. It was opened in 1924, rented for 10 years from a former Cache County commissioner named Olif Conquist, a Swedish immigrant. It was run by George Q. Bateman, Bob's cousin, beginning two years after he graduated from the UAC in agronomy until 1962. The last one was the Cache County farm, 100.5 acres a quarter mile from the college, leased to the USAC for five years.

[46] This is the same Franklin S. Harris who was BYU President for 24 years, beginning the year after his trip with Robert to Panguitch.

[47] Toxemia is now called pre-eclampsia, a complex disease of pregnancy characterized by high blood pressure and large amounts of protein in the urine and low birthweight babies. It is called eclampsia when it progresses to seizures or coma as Rela experienced. Eclampsia can cause death to either the mother or infant. Treatment before 1920 included bleeding and purging, vegetarian diet, opiates, and sedatives. Around 1920 the effectiveness of I.V. magnesium sulfate was discovered, which is still in use today, but was not used in Rela's case. In the early 20th century, the mortality rate for mothers with coma or seizures from eclampsia was 20-30% and is still around 14% in developing countries. It is still 5.6-11.8% in the U.S. and Great Britain according to Michael G. Ross MD at Medscape.com.

[48] The following is pure speculation since the name LaVar was at that time fairly popular for Mormon boys. One of Bob's classmates at the USAC was Elray LaVar Christiansen, a very popular student who graduated to become a seminary teacher and later an L.D.S. general authority. It seems possible that Bob and Rela named their first child James LaVar and their second child Mack Elray out of respect for their esteemed college friend.

work at the new experimental farm, leaving Rela and LaVar in the care of her parents. By August 7, when she felt strong enough to travel, Rela's father put her on the train at Midvale headed for Marysvale,[49] which was the end of the track, with a baby, a bottle of catnip tea, and what she could carry. They arrived after dark. Bob met her there with a borrowed car and they drove the remaining 45 miles[50] on winding dirt roads along the Sevier River to the old Indian school three miles north of Panguitch. In Rela's words, "We threw down our blankets and slept on the floor, given out and exhausted."

Rela's mother Annie with LaVar

[49] Marysvale remained the end of the line until 1949, when the railroad was discontinued. Garfield County has never had rail service.

[50] In her biography Rela stated that they drove 65 miles from Richfield. Her son LaVar wrote correctly that they drove from the end of the railroad in Marysvale, but it was more like 45 miles. In that day on those roads, it was in any case a long, difficult drive.

Panguitch

On June 12, 1852, a company of six men from Parowan, which included John D. Lee, worked their way up Little Creek Canyon east of Paragonah scouting out a place to settle on the upper Sevier River. They found there a good opportunity for a small colony of 50-100 families who might wish to go into the lumber business as there was plenty of timber and water, but the climate was too cold for agriculture, the elevation being 6,666 feet.

Twelve years later no white settlers had entered the area. At that time, Bob Bateman's grandfather, James Morgan Bateman, was still a young man, living with his mother, his brother William, and two younger sisters in a cabin on the bluff west of the Jordan River and "proving up" their homestead claim on 320 acres of land, where Bob would be born 32 years later. By then the Bateman family had been living in the Salt Lake Valley a decade and a half. The American Civil War was entering its last terrible year.

In the spring of 1864, Jens Nielsen, a veteran pioneer of the Willie Handcart Company, led 54 families from Beaver, Paragonah, and Parowan,[51] southeast through 48 miles of difficult terrain in the Beaver Mountains building a road over the divide between Little Creek Canyon and Bear Valley, one of the most rugged elevated passes in the state.[52] They chose the name Fairview for their settlement at the junction of the Sevier River and Panguitch Creek, but later changed it to Panguitch, an Indian word meaning "big fish." Nielsen, who had been appointed bishop, directed the building of a fort and an 18 by 20 foot meetinghouse, which served as church, school, and community center, and the excavation of the south field ditch, which circled the town with water from Panguitch Creek. The first winter nearly starved the families out until seven of the men fought their way to Parowan to get flour, forced by weather to abandon their wagon near the summit and laboring through the deep snow by walking on quilts.[53] No one died that winter, but the next year the town was abandoned in May as a result of the outbreak of Utah's Blackhawk War in Sanpete County, and it sat vacant for four years.[54] Then Brigham Young made a visit to the valley in the company of Bishop William Dame of Parowan and decided to call George W. Sevy from Harmony to assemble a company to re-settle it in the spring of 1871.

At that time, Bob Bateman's father, James Alphonso "Phon" Bateman, was a three month old infant in West Jordan.

Sevy's party of 25 men and two women arrived around March 18, none of them having been among the discouraged earlier settlers. They were surprised to find many houses and even some crops still standing, untouched by the Indians. Before the year was over, 120 men had moved in, many with families, and Sevy became the bishop. The first building to be erected was a tithing office, and soon a co-op was founded. The first Relief Society in Panguitch was established in 1873 with 118 members. That year or the next, Hans Peter Ipson constructed a dugout cabin on the north shore of nearby Panguitch Lake. The lake became popular for locals, especially for holiday celebrations such as Pioneer

[51] Beaver settlement had begun in 1856 with pioneers from Parowan, which had been settled in January 1851 by the Apostle George A. Smith and a group of settlers called the "Iron Mission" which included Joseph and Samuel Bateman, uncle and brother of Bob Bateman's grandfather James Morgan Bateman.
[52] Their route is now Utah highway 20, which is worth a drive.
[53] Panguitch still celebrates the "quilt walk" annually.
[54] Jens Nielson settled six different Utah towns, ending in Bluff, where he served as bishop for 26 years.

Day. On November 7, 1874, John D. Lee was discovered by federal authorities in Panguitch and arrested for his involvement in the Mountain Meadows Massacre 17 years earlier. He was found living with his fourth wife Sarah Caroline Williams and their eleven children. Lee was executed at Mountain Meadows by firing squad March 23, 1877 and is buried in the Panguitch cemetery. During the next 10 years many surrounding towns were settled. Garfield County was created in 1882, named after the president who had recently been assassinated. Six school districts were created that May including one in Panguitch, which had two schools and 160 students. When Panguitch was incorporated in 1899 it had a population of about 500. Agriculture, especially of cattle and sheep, formed the basic economy, which was bolstered by irrigation from Panguitch Lake and the Sevier River.

Runke with Indian students

Albert F. Haycock

In 1903 the U.S. Government Indian Office bought the Albert F. Haycock farm at Three Mile Creek including a well-built brick house to begin a school for the Paiutes of Southern Utah and Moccasin, Arizona.[55] The house was enlarged, dormitories, large barns and other out-buildings were built, and the farm was stocked with milk cows, beef cattle and other livestock along with farm implements in order to give vocational as well as educational training to the Indian children. Miss Laura B. Work was the superintendent who opened the Indian school in September 1904. Haycock and W. A. Lee were in charge of farm work. The two men taught the boys agriculture, and six female teachers from Missouri and Minnesota were hired. A male superintendent named Walter Runke followed Miss Work as superintendent in 1906 and operated the school until June 1910, when it was closed at the request of the Indian community. According to Runke, the opposition arose because the colder, higher climate of Panguitch was causing illness among the students, and the school was moved to Moccasin, Arizona, but modern observers have suggested that the opposition arose because some children may have been removed from the reservation against their parents' wishes.[56]

Due to the efforts of Laura Work a Presbyterian mission was established beginning May 10, 1906, when Reverend T. M. Keusseff was called from North Dakota to establish a congregation in Panguitch. He converted one Mormon family, and several local Mormon children attended the Christian school that he ran out of the church, which held meetings above the courthouse until the chapel was completed in 1907, mainly from funds from "the east." In addition to several of the local Mormons, attendance at the religious meetings was supported on Sundays by the students from the Indian School until it shut down in 1910. The Presbyterian school was discontinued during the influenza epidemic in 1918, but the

[55] Ida Chidester, et al, *Golden Nuggets of Pioneer Days, A History of Garfield County*, Garfield Chapter of DUP, 1949, pp. 240-241.
[56] https://www.sltrib.com/news/education/2021/08/23/bodies-paiute-children/.

mission re-opened for community work in January 1920 including a Sunday school, kindergarten, sewing classes, and charitable work.[57] It operated continuously during the time that the Bateman family lived in Panguitch.

By the time that Bob and Rela Bateman arrived in 1920 the Indian children had been gone for a decade, and the farm and buildings were greatly in need of cleaning and repair. It must have taken the young couple weeks just to make the house livable.

Rela wrote that when they awoke the morning after their long road trip from Marysvale she found that in the front of the house were two large rooms with an old rock fireplace in one of them, a mop rag and seven bars of soap in the corner. Bob had scrubbed the floor as best he could. The big barn was a quarter mile from the house, to the north and east. The Sevier River ran through the property about a quarter mile east of the house. They had coal lamps and no electricity, and they drew their water from an old well with a roof over it at the back of the house. Rela wrote that they never had a bathtub or running water as long as they lived there. That was probably no great handicap to Bob, who had no plumbing during his time as a student in Logan, but Rela had grown up in the McMullin mansion in South Jordan, and likely had an adjustment to make.

One of the large rooms became a bedroom, the other the living room. Their second son, Mack, recalled,

> The living room had a large fireplace in one end, with large black pots hanging that could be swung out or in over the fire. Mother would heat bath water in them. She would bathe us in a tin wash tub in front of the fireplace. The room also had an oil or gas light that could be lit at night and refilled with fuel. Added on to this house were several rooms built of wood, and these were used for a kitchen and bedrooms.

LaVar wrote:

> The house had a large living room and bedroom on the front, both heated by an open fireplace and large wood burning stoves that could turn almost white hot in the wintertime. Behind the house in the yard stood a large well-built granary containing several bins surrounding a central hallway. There was also a chicken house and a large pig pen with several stalls. Between the house and the granary stood a well house and a well of deep, cool water that delivered a thirst-satisfying drink from a bucket drawn by a rope through a pulley overhead. Also, the house was ringed with an inner and an outer square of huge cottonwood trees. The house being set back from the road made a pleasing appearance with large lawns in front and along the entire south edge of the yard. Also in the south yard were the clothes lines and a huge woodpile that was replenished each fall with wagonloads of logs from the nearby mountains.

The cattle barns and corrals were about 100 yards away in a field. Two small schoolhouses still stood near the house but were later torn down to make sheds for the cattle. The well served as a refrigerator. Rela would store cream, milk, and butter down the well to keep it cool. Studying and recording weather conditions was part of Bob's job. There was a little white building, a weather gauge station, about 30 or 40 feet from the house nestled among the big cottonwood trees.

[57] The church building was torn down in 1946 to make way for tourist cabins.

The house still stands facing on U.S. Highway 89 as it nears Panguitch, and it is still an agricultural farm run by the Agricultural College of Utah State University. Now it appears to stand somewhat isolated with few houses nearby. But during its heyday and the period of the Indian school it was part of a community known as Three Mile Creek, described in the History of Garfield County as "a real suburban village of farm homes." There were about eight family farms in the area, which at one time even had a school. One farm was a dairy, the only one established in Panguitch until after 1949. Three Mile Creek was located at the southern end of a larger group of farms over a five by ten mile area settled around Fort Sanford at Lowder Spring where the pioneers had first entered the valley. The fort was established in 1864 where 25 men were stationed to guard against Indians but was abandoned as unnecessary two years later. The spring produced warm water and attracted settlers. The settlement was first known as Cleveland, later Orton, and then Bear Creek, but when a post office was established at William Orton's home the government named it Spry after Utah's governor at the time. In 1921 a branch of the Panguitch Ward was established there. Spry was never a real town, just a bunch of farms, but in 1940 its population was 87 people.

Panguitch house as it stands today.
(drone photo courtesy SL Tribune)

Among the Batemans' closest neighbors were the Allens. Earl, who ran a farm at Three Mile Creek about a mile north of them, had three years of college education and taught school in town, where he eventually became principal. His wife Beulah was the same age as Rela to the exact day. Beulah's mother, a widow who was affectionately known as "Aunt Dee" lived with them and taught Rela how to make cheese.

Earl and Beulah Allen

Aunt Dee Crosby

Aunt Dee (Adelia Bunker Crosby) had been one of the pioneers who settled Panguitch in 1871. She came with her parents when she was 18 and married another young settler two years later. Aunt Dee taught Rela to get a bigger tub for milking to save enough for cheese before letting the calves nurse. Then she put color and an organic preparation into the extra milk to turn it to clabber, cut the clabber thin and hung it in cheesecloth to cure, periodically squeezing out the whey using an old car jack and rubbing it every day with hot wax as it cured until it was ripe. The Batemans loved eating the cheese and saved some for the McMullins and Bob's Bateman family for Christmas gifts.

Not only were the Allens the same age as the Batemans, but they also had age-matched children. Sam Allen was just three months older than LaVar. When Mack was born, Beulah birthed twins his age named Clem and Cleo, and there were eventually two more children to match Alva and Bertin in age.

The Batemans traveled to church in Panguitch, since the Spry Branch had not yet been organized, and it was probably just as close for them. Hans Peter Ipson[58] was the bishop, and he and his family became close to Robert and Rela. They often invited the Batemans to dinner on Sundays between the church sessions. The Batemans quickly became involved in town life, parties, and meetings and held a big party on their front lawn with a wiener roast and popcorn balls.

Bob and Rela did not have a car at first—he had needed to borrow a car to pick her up at Marysvale. Rela wrote: "We drove a small black pony to town for a while, then found out that he was blind, as he would go off the road if he wasn't guided, but it served us for a while." When they wanted to go "north," they found someone who was driving to Marysvale and then traveled the rest of the way on the train. But before long they got a used 1919 Chevrolet with two small round windows at the back and were never without a car after that.

1920 was the year in which the 19th amendment to the constitution was passed, giving women the right to vote. That fall Warren Harding won the presidency by a landslide, returning the Republican Party to the White House.

Their extended families, the Batemans and McMullins, liked to come to Panguitch for visits. Rela wrote:

> Every year when Grandpa Bateman had his vacation the family all loaded into their big open Nash touring car and headed for Panguitch. Grandma was a short heavy woman who made the car tilt when she stepped on the running board. She loved to cook and always brought lots of food. When they came to Panguitch she had a ham or a turkey with lots of fresh bread, cakes, and fresh vegetables.

Thelma McMullin

At Christmas time, the traveling went the other direction. Apparently Bob and Rela went home every year, generally spending Christmas with Phon and Pary and New Year's with the Rela's parents, who celebrated their wedding anniversary on that day.

On April 2, 1921, Rela's 19 year old sister Thelma died of tuberculosis in South Jordan, just as Flavo had.

Having already been ordained a seventy prior to coming to Panguitch, Bob was called and set apart as a stake missionary in November of his second year in Garfield County. The calling involved traveling to Hatch and to Tropic. Rela was not impressed--Bob brought home bedbugs, and she got

[58] Hans Ipsen and his wife Sarah Elizabeth Marshall lost their first two children as infants, but when Batemans arrived they had four children under 12 including a newborn girl. His father, a Danish convert, had been in the second handcart company and came briefly to Provo in 1856, and then to Manti, moving to Panguitch in 1872 where Hans Peter was born in 1877, the seventh child of his father's third wife. Hans served a mission to the Eastern States around 1901 and had served as Garfield County's deputy sheriff and game warden. While the Batemans were in Panguitch the bishop became the postmaster.

the “seven year itch” when he returned. He was honorably released from his mission after serving only two weeks—maybe Rela had a talk with the stake president.

The following April Rela had her second son whom they named Mack, probably honoring her McMullin family name. He turned out to be the stereotypical second son by any account. Rela wrote, “Mack was my most mischievous son, but he was always generous.” Mack wrote[59] of himself,

> I was always full of mischief and usually in some kind of trouble, even as I grew older. LaVar never seemed to be in trouble, and in later years when we were in school, the teachers that had taught LaVar were always pleased when they learned I was his brother and expected a lot out of me, but I was a disappointment to most of them.

Dr. Bigelow

Rela wrote that old Dr. Bigelow came to their home for the births of Mack and the other two boys, but “he always left afterwards.” Her sister Helen came down for one of the births, and her mother came twice. After her horrendous birth experience with LaVar she seems to have made sure to have plenty of support. Doctor Bigelow was Moses Willard Bigelow, Sr. He was born in Gunlock, practiced in Spring City in 1914 and 1915, and then moved to Panguitch by 1917 when he was 41.[60]

Scott and Keziah Worthen

At the end of May, Bob’s cousin and schoolmate George Q. Bateman graduated in agronomy from the USAC in Logan and located on a private farm in Richmond, about 13 miles north of Logan. Two years later he would be appointed the superintendent of the experimental dairy farm in North Logan. Bob’s only brother, Pres,[61] married Myrtle Hogan, whom he had met in the third grade. They settled on the Davis place, just north of Phon on 1300 West on the east side of the road in the winter of 1923, the year that the first movie was produced with sound.

On July 6, 1923, the Panguitch newspaper, the *Garfield County News*,[62] reported that the Batemans went on a vacation to the south to visit the scenic wonders of Grand Canyon where they spent the fourth of July. The Batemans received no less than 138 mentions in the local paper after that.

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[59] This is from Mack’s amazing, candid autobiography, well worth reading at https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/memories/KWC5-P4R.

[60] Dr. Bigelow moved to Payson in 1938 due to poor health (he was 62) and died two years later.

[61] After Bob’s death in 1928, Pres took in LaVar and Mack and taught them to work on the farm, living in the summers among his own children. He did major work on building Rela’s house in West Jordan that was later sold.

[62] The editor, Will J. Peters, was unique having been a member of several travelling theatrical groups. He sang and danced in vaudeville acts and often played the villain in melodramas. His troupe, Peters' Peerless Players, was once booked to perform at Panguitch Lake. As the story goes, they were greeted by "an unusual number of people disguised as empty seats." Consequently, he "quit the boards," settled in Panguitch, and on April 16, 1920, issued Volume 1, Number 1 of the *Garfield County News*. After Will's death on November 11, 1929, his wife Elenora Mae published the news for a number of years.
https://digitalnewspapers.org/newspaper/?paper=Garfield%20County%20News.

In December it reported that Mr. and Mrs. Scott Worthen and Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bateman went to Tropic to appoint committees for special activity work. Tropic is about 30 miles from the Bateman home, east of Bryce Canyon. I would like to know more about the special activities. Scott was a Panguitch farmer who was a few years older that Bob.

Mack, Alva, and LaVar

On January 12, 1924, Mack and LaVar were sent to the Allen house overnight. After breakfast Mr. Allen announced that they had a little brother and drove them back to see him. They named him Alva Robert Bateman. He was always called Alva until his father died, but after that he was known as Bob.

It was by then 14 years since the Indian school had been closed, but from time to time buggies or wagons loaded with an Indian family would stop in the road while some proud parent explained to his children where he had attended school in his earlier years. Rela admitted that sometimes they frightened her when they set up camps along the road, but they were friendly and never harmful.

Mack wrote,

> The Indians would stop when traveling by our house, and camp for the night in the trees. When they would leave, we kids would go down where they had camped to see if they had left something we could look at or take back to the house. One of those times I was bare footed. They had left their fire, which looked like it was out, because the ashes were a white color like dust. I stepped in these ashes, but there were red hot coals underneath. I burned my foot really bad and could not walk. I was lying there crying when an old Indian lady came by and saw me. She sat me on a box in a little wooden toy wagon and put my foot in a bucket of cold water. Then she pulled me home to my mother. Mother was very upset with the Indian lady for putting my foot in cold water. At that time, they believed cold water would drive the burn deeper. My foot healed without leaving a scar. Now they have found this is the best way to treat a burn.[63] One night it was dark and stormy. My father hadn't come home yet, and mother was worried. She went to the window and put her hands on each side of her face so she could look out to see if father was coming. She looked right into the eyes of an old buck Indian, who was on the outside of the windowpane looking in. It about scared her to death, she brought one of our big dogs into the house to stay until father came home.

In March the *Garfield County News* reported that Mr. and Mrs. McMullen of West Jordan were visiting in Panguitch with their daughter Mrs. Robert Bateman at the experiment farm. The next month the Panguitch High School basketball team won the Utah State championship. They went to Chicago in May for the National Tournament, where they won two games. The town had raised $1,500 to send them. Duwayne Henrie and George Cooper were chosen All Americans.

[63] That is still true.

In June the Batemans went with the Worthens to spend a week in Zion Park. The next month they went to South Jordan and back, all duly reported in the newspaper.

That summer LaVar, who was then four, rode his father's beautiful black saddle horse, Old Midge, to round up a little stray calf and put him in the corral, but Midge headed for the barn out of his control. As she jumped over the door threshold he skinned his face on the top of the barn doorway, but it didn't knock him off. He had managed to dismount and was leading her out again when Bob caught up with them and washed the blood off LaVar's face, saying how proud he was of him to be able to do that. It was not long before Bob had his own problem with Midge. The newspaper reported on September 26 that Bob had broken his fibula when the horse he was riding fell with him. The injury was not serious enough to keep him from appearing as an actor in the three act comedy, "Pills," in the Panguitch social hall just after Thanksgiving. According to LaVar, Bob also sang in the ward choir. He was a fine baritone soloist and often sang at church meetings and funerals.

That fall Rela painted a large sign which she hung over the front gate, "Utah State Experiment Farm." It caught the eye of the newspaper editor, if no one else, who praised the spacing and perfect formation of the letters, continuing, "On your first trip past the farm take a good look at the work of a lady." She remembered this compliment and quoted it in her autobiography. She used her art training in various ways in Panguitch. She always had a painting ready to exhibit at the county fair. When a neighbor woman wanted Rela to teach her little girls to paint and another wanted her to teach her children to say "pieces," she organized a class in painting and a class for dramatic readings each week.

In January 1925 the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station published its biennial report of the director for 1923-24, which reported on all eight of its experiment farm locations including the Panguitch farm and George Q. Bateman's Cronquist dairy farm. Here is Bob's report on his first two years of his farm:[64]

> The farm at Panguitch is maintained as a general livestock farm. There is a splendid herd of shorthorn beef cattle on the farm at the present time, the original herd on the farm at the time the project was begun having been culled and improved through breeding and feeding. The object of this project has been to produce good range bulls for the southern section of the state, and this is being accomplished. The herd at the present time is made up of thirty head of cows, heifers, and calves, one herd bull, and six service bulls from one to two years of age. All of these animals are in good flesh. Six bulls were sold this last spring.
>
> During the past biennium various improvements have been made on the farm. The barn has been painted. Feed racks and a corral for bulls have been constructed. The fences have been repaired and the wire re-stretched. With these various improvements noted the farm is in better condition than at any time since the beginning of the project. Bateman, J. R.

The diligent *Garfield County News* reported on the Batemans' return from Murray where they had spent the holidays. That fall Bob had bought a shiny new 1925 Chevy with a square rear window and celluloid canvas side curtains that snapped on when the weather was bad. LaVar wrote that they took this new car on the Christmas trip that year. They used some bricks that they heated red hot in the stove and

[64] I include this and his next report for two reasons: first, to explain his work, and second, because I have been able to find no other documents of any sort that that have been written by Bob—no letters, diaries, or notes. The only other sample of his writing that I have is his signature on the check paying for Rela's engagement ring.

then put in a special foot warmer with holes drilled around it so the air could circulate around the brick and still not burn their feet. He also remembered how sad the Chevy looked the morning after driving home from Marysvale in a heavy rainstorm that blew the top off and let everything get wet inside.

In March there was a St. Patrick's Day celebration in Panguitch featuring among other events two selections by male quartets of Robert Bateman, James Sargent, Jr., Stanley Johnson, and F. G. Gardiner, and another of Robert Bateman, Stanley Johnson, Ward Moody[65] and Douglas M. Todd.[66]

Rela put an ad in the *News* for a course in "everyday art." Fifteen lessons for $10.

Garfield and Sevier County celebrated the opening of Bryce Canyon as a "Utah National Park" on June 1, 1925. This was evidently part of a campaign to make it an official part of the National Park Service, which finally occurred on February 25, 1928. Governor Dern and his wife came with hundreds of people from northern Utah where they were welcomed to Panguitch by Mayor James M. Sargent. After a speech by the governor, the group paraded together by car to Bryce Canyon, where they were greeted by three "brownies" guarding a closed gate to the second tunnel in Red Canyon. These brownies were Kirk Daly, Thomas Marshall, and five-year-old LaVar Bateman in costume including shoes with turned-up toes. The gate was of lattice work trimmed with flowers and evergreens above which hung a large "Welcome to Fairyland" sign. A band was placed above the tunnel. As the lead car containing Governor Dern stopped, numerous young female "fairies" emerged, dancing to the music. LaVar and Tom opened the gate, and the surprised governor and his car with streamers attached were pushed into Utah's fairyland followed by the 315 cars behind him with a crowd of over 2,000 people, who returned that night to Panguitch for a dance. Rela Bateman, along with Margaret Todd, Katie Hurst, and Mary Sevy, had planned the event and trained the young dancers.

About that time Bob purchased a new Zenith radio. LaVar described it as an oddity and a very curious experience. Mack said that it was the first radio in that part of the country. It was really big and had huge batteries on both sides like car batteries. People came from miles around to hear it play.

The boys remembered having a potato field just south of the house, where they learned how to plant and harvest the potatoes. About that time Bob purchased a farm of his own about a half mile north of the experiment farm. It had belonged to Albert Haycock, the same man who had sold his farm to the government for the Indian school. Bob shipped a fine team of horses down from Salt Lake that his father, Phon, had no use for anymore and stocked the farm with sheep and cattle. The Carlisle "Carl" Boyter family lived on the farm and managed it for Bob. Carl was from Beaver. After being badly burned in a Marysvale mine fire, he had moved to Spry to

Carlisle Boyter family on farm

[65] Moody lived in Panguitch in 1924, but briefly. He was Bob's age, taught seminary for two years and then left.
[66] Todd was also only briefly in Panguitch. He was a bank liquidator and spent several years in Panguitch clearing up the affairs of the bank in receivership, and then served as cashier of the newly organized bank. After that he was manager of the Bingham State Bank in Bingham Canyon.

homestead. He worked on many farms besides Batemans' including for Dr. Bigelow, Wallace Houston,[67] and the Haycocks, and then bought a house in Panguitch in 1927. He had owned the first freight truck in Panguitch in 1919. He drove the funeral car in 1920 and the school bus from Spry to Panguitch. He could fix just about anything.

Each summer the Batemans entertained their families from Salt Lake Valley. These events were well remembered by their growing boys. LaVar wrote the following account of that summer's trip.

> Grandfather Bateman drove a long Nash touring car that had two little jump seats on the back of the front seat that just fit Mack and me. I recall being invited to ride in those seats on a visit down to Grand Canyon, through the Kaibab Forest and for a stop at Jacob's Lake. I was then about five and Mack was three. They were accompanied by Great Grandmother Pixton. One summer when Preston and Myrtle were newly married the summer travelers were accompanied by some of the Hogan family with their big Pierce Arrow car. Oh, how Mack and I laughed when this big car got stuck in the mud trying to drive around the edge of Panguitch Lake and my father had to pull it out with his little Chevrolet.

The *Garfield County News* reported on August 28, 1925, that Bob was made YMMIA superintendent. He enthusiastically pursued that calling until his death.

That summer a big storm rose up, and the Bateman house was struck by lightning. LaVar and Mack were playing in the garage while Bob worked with a hired man repairing farm machinery as they waited out the rain, when they heard an explosion with a blinding flash. A huge cottonwood tree in the yard had been struck by lightning and they found it leaning on the roof of the house. The lightning bolt had gone down the metal chimney pipe into the stove, shocking Rela's sister Norma, who had her hands in the dishwater being kept warm on the stove top. She recovered quickly, but the electricity had also entered along the telephone line and set the curtains on fire.

The fall of 1926 LaVar started school. That was the year of the Scopes "Monkey Trial" over teaching evolution in schools in Tennessee. Evolution was not likely an issue in Panguitch, but LaVar had a rocky start for his own reasons. By the time the long black school bus reached his house it was always full of rowdy farm boys from Spry, so the driver would pick him up, lift him over the steering wheel, and set him on a little seat to his left. Rela always sent him to school with a pint of milk hung by a shoelace around his neck in a blue denim bag that she had sewn, and the older boys would tease him about his baby bottle.

[67] Wallace Houston was a livestock farmer and veterinarian. He went to B.Y. High with his brother Lorin, who died of appendicitis at age 21 about that time, and then to USAC studying animal husbandry—he left before Robert was there--and later served in the legislature. Wallace and Frank Houston were cousins.

That year a friend of Bob and Rela's named Earl Marshall,[68] the druggist in Panguitch and later the mayor, arranged to pasture a herd of Shetland ponies on the Bateman farm. Part of the arrangement was that Mack and LaVar could have two of them to ride whenever they were with the herd. When he wasn't in school, LaVar rode Jim, a black and white pony with an underslung jaw. Mack rode a fat and racy little mare by the name of Dolly. Mack rode daily with Bob checking on the cattle, and LaVar was often envious of him as he raced the school bus down the road on the way to school. Mack rode well from the time he was four. The summer after LaVar's first school year Mack was out riding for cattle with his father when one of the bulls got loose, a big roan named Old Lavender Lad, who was very mean. Mack wrote,

Earl and friends in front of Elk Pharmacy

> Mother was out hanging clothes on the line. She had a basket of clothes in her hands when she heard a noise behind her. She looked around just as Old Lavender Lad charged from the rear. She luckily got out of the way and ran into the house, but the bull scattered clothes all over the yard. Then he stood bellowing and pawing the ground.

Rela had a story about Mack during that time, too:

> One day Mack hid behind a tree by the gate and when Bob drove out the gate, he grabbed the back of the car. As I looked out, he was running as fast has he could, and his father was gaining speed. I ran and called him. Just then the speed threw him on the road. It could have killed him but thank heaven it didn't.

That story made the local newspaper under its feature called "Three Mile Creek Notes" on July 23, 1926, noting that Mack bruised his face quite badly.

At the end of 1926 the next biennial report of the director of the Utah Agricultural Experiment Station in Logan was due. Here is Bob's second report.

> **Project No. 66. —Panguitch Livestock Farm. —**This project is one that has been devoted wholly to the beef cattle business, the main purpose of which has been to produce better bulls from the range herds. Before establishing the herd, considerable thought has been given to the particular breed that would best suit local conditions. The section is high and limited in crop varieties, ranging cattle in summer and feeding during the winters, which are sometimes cold and long. Breeds of cattle already established were taken into consideration, so a herd of purebred shorthorn heifers was placed on the farms, headed by an exceptionally good type of bull. The get held from this bull have developed into excellent foundation dams. These dams had been used with a short, blocky bull, and excellent results are in evidence. The present total

[68] Earl's pharmacy was in the Ipsen's building. In 1918 he caught influenza and needed a sub to come from Parowan. He bought out the Carhart Drug Store in 1919 and added an ice cream parlor in 1920 with a 10 gallon freezer and their own icehouse. He was the only druggist in Paiute and Garfield Counties for 40 years.

of herd is forty-five head. The bulls from this herd have been placed in four different counties of the state.

The farm crops this spring are earlier than usual and water prospect is better than last year. Over a mile of net fence has been stretched and the pastures subdivided so that in the near future more intensive work can be carried on. Generally speaking, this project is in the best condition it has experienced since its beginning. Bateman, J. R.

On February 13, 1927, Bertin Kyle Bateman was born in Panguitch. The other three boys were sent this time to Beulah Allen's mother in town. Bob was mentioned in the local paper on March 5, having returned from a "short visit in the north Sunday." It did not mention that he returned in a 1927 Chrysler for which he had paid cash. He thought it would be fine for travel to South Jordan and West Jordan at Christmas time or other special occasions. It was a big car for those days with hydraulic brakes.

Mack, LaVar, and the Chrysler

Edith McMullin

On March 23 Rela's 23 year old sister Edith died, the third sister to succumb to tuberculosis.

It was announced that Bob was on the sports committee and Rela on the program committee for the coming July 4th celebration. Charles Lindbergh had just crossed the Atlantic Ocean in the Spirit of St. Louis. These were fine times for America.

LaVar told a story from that summer which I will include in full because it shows Bob's fine parenting style.

Across the (Sevier) River from our house was the hay land. The men had made a special crossing filling the river with gravel so that they could drive the horses across the river with the wagons filled with hay. The water was about two feet deep over that roadway and ran fairly fast. Just below the crossing were deep holes where the water swirled in whirlpools that were very dangerous. The men had cut the hay and it was ready for stacking. They would gather it up and pitch it onto the hay wagons and bring it to the stack and pitch it onto a big Jackson fork. Everyone had work to do. The summer that I turned seven my father gave me a job to do because I could ride a horse. That made me very proud. He sent me to ride the derrick horse. All I had to do was say giddy up and the horse would pull up the big Jackson fork and dump the hay on the top of the stack where the stackers would spread it evenly while I rode the derrick horse and let the fork back down. We unloaded one wagon successfully and the men took the wagons to get another load. They asked me to sit by the derrick horse and wait for them to bring the next load. It was very hot, and it seemed very long to a little seven year old. As I sat there I had an idea, so I rolled up my pant legs and started to wade back across the river to go

home. I remember thinking of the swift water and how careful I had to be. I got across safely, but I went home feeling kind of guilty because I had disobeyed my father. When the men came back and found me gone they were afraid I had been sucked into one of the whirlpools. They were very worried and rushed home to report me missing. What I remember most was that my father did not yell at me, but he put his arms around me and gave me a hug. He said, "I am very disappointed, I thought I could trust you to make a good decision and to do the job well." I felt so bad. I decided right then and there that I would never disappoint or disobey my father again.

In August 1927 the *Garfield County News* announced that Bob's parents made a visit.

The Batemans made the news again in December. "While playing last week, one of the small sons of Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Bateman suffered a nasty cut on the upper lip from an ax. Dr. Bigelow dressed the wound, taking three stitches, and according to last reports the boy was doing nicely." Here is Mack's recollection of the event:

> One time when I was about four and Alva was about two, we were in the back yard playing. We had a wooden box and I wanted to knock the bottom out of it, so I got the big ax, put the handle between my legs and was hitting the box with the butt-end of the ax. The sharp edge of the ax was turned up. I told Alva to see if the box was broken yet. He looked down just as I came up with the ax and I cut him really bad across the upper lip. They took him to town to the doctor and had his lip stitched, but the stitches would not hold and later they put in some steel clamps like hog rings. This left a bad scar, which he has carried the rest of his life.

During the winter of 1928 Bob was becoming even more involved in Panguitch affairs. He was still the YMMIA president, which in those days was a very important church calling. He was also president of the Parent Teacher Association.

The Commercial Club of Panguitch had been working since the previous summer to develop a cheese factory after a pitch from a developer, Joseph R. Stringham of Holden, who had recently helped to develop a profitable factory in Parowan. Although ardently promoted by the local newspaper, the effort was hampered by a degree of apathy among the townspeople and to a greater extent by the low number of milk cows in the region. A building was completed around the end of December on the north end of town just beyond the bridge near the fairgrounds, but the opening of the factory had to be delayed until February while more milk cows were shipped in. The name of the factory was to be Bryce Canyon Dairy Company, and Bob was on its board of directors. By March, the additional cows had arrived, and the opening was being planned for April 5, but certain pieces of machinery for the operation were not in place.

Eugene McEwen and family

Around March 19 the developer, Joseph R. Stringham, a young Panguitch farmer named Eugene McEwen, and Bob set out for Salt Lake City to purchase the needed equipment.[69] They were to be gone for two days but Bob did not return as expected. Right after they left, six year old Mack

[69] On Friday March 23 the *Garfield County News*: "J. R. Stringham, E. R. McEwen, and J. R. Bateman made a trip north the first of the week on business connected with the cheese factory." Monday would have been March 19.

came down sick with a fever while Rela was helping the Three Mile Creek Relief Society sisters with a quilt. She laid him down until the women went home and then sent for Dr. Bigelow,[70] who diagnosed typhoid fever and gave him some shots for it. Rela slept between the sick boy and the baby Bertin in the living room. She had isolated Mack behind the sewing machine. He got more and more ill. LaVar later wrote that Mack was sick "in a semi-delirious state for several weeks," which included his sixth birthday on April 2.

Rela soon learned that Bob had also developed a fever on the ride to Salt Lake City. His companions had dropped him off at his parents' house in West Jordan where he was seen by the Midvale doctor the same day. Bob was too sick to get out of bed. Soon the whole town of Panguitch was aware. The Garfield newspaper reported on March 30 that Bob had fallen ill with fever at his parents' house, and so had one of his children in Spry.

Ross and Minnie

When Rela's parents in South Jordan heard about Bob's illness they sent her 18 year old brother Ross down to Panguitch realizing that she had no way to take care of the cattle—he brought his girl Minnie down with him in his little car. Ross had spent time with Bob on the farm and would know what to do. Although not mentioned for this in the family stories, it appears that Bob's younger brother Pres also drove a truck to Panguitch to help during that time.[71]

Frank and Roene Houston

Then on Thursday, April 5th, Rela was called by Frank Houston, a dear friend and the mayor of Panguitch, who was Bob's first counselor in the YMMIA, and told that Bob had taken a turn for the worse. He had passed out twice and had two hemorrhages and wanted her to come. She was unsuccessful in trying to get a call through to Bob, so Frank drove all night taking her to West Jordan. Doctor Bigelow had gotten a woman to come and stay with Mack. She left LaVar and Alva in Panguitch and took 14-month-old Bertin with her. She wrote,

> When I got there, it was daylight. They said, "Don't kiss him." But I did and laid right down on the bed beside him. He expected me to. They washed my mouth out with alcohol. The nurse was there to help. George Q. Bateman in Logan woke up at 3 am with the thought, he had to see Robert. He got there just before he was gone. Bob said, "What are we going to do in Nauvoo? There is enough money to get along until the boys are older." Then he was gone.

[70] Dr. Bigelow's wife was the Panguitch Ward Relief Society president and Rela was her first counselor.
[71] The *Midvale Journal Sentinel* noted on April 6, 1928: "Preston Bateman has returned from Panguitch where he went to attend business affairs of his brother, Robert Bateman, who is very ill at the home of his parents, suffering with typhoid fever. His wife is at their home in Panguitch where a small son is suffering with the same disease."

According to his death certificate, Bob died Friday morning at 7:30 am, April 6. Dr. Charles B. Beymer,[72] who signed the form, was there, having attended Bob since March 20. The doctor gave the immediate cause of death as bowel hemorrhage due to typhoid fever, diagnosed both clinically and by laboratory testing.[73]

Upon news of Bob's death, Ross loaded LaVar and Alva into Rela's Chrysler and sped north to attend the funeral, which was scheduled for Sunday, April 8 at 10:30 am. LaVar had a vivid memory of that wild ride.

> The roads were mostly gravel or dirt. Uncle Ross, being who and what he was, made that 230 mile trip in about thirteen hours, a record time for 1928. It often took two days. I just remember that we passed about every car on the road, and it was fun. The same trip in 1967 takes an easy 4 ½ or 5 hours with freeways and paved roads all the way.

LaVar also wrote about the funeral. "The funeral was large, and I learned more about my father from his many friends than I had ever known in person." Ross was not the only driver from Panguitch speeding that Saturday to West Jordan. Rela wrote that 17 couples came from Panguitch for the service. Mack wrote, "There were 86 people from Panguitch, half the population. It would have taken three of four days to make the trip up and back, so he must have been very well liked."

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[72] Dr. Beymer was born in Nebraska, raised as the son of a railroad agent in Scandia, Kansas. He first put out a shingle at Council Bluffs, Iowa in Internal Medicine and Obstetrics in 1927 when he was 26 year old and seems to have joined a group of Midvale doctors as a young temporary partner while a senior partner was getting postgraduate training. He left the clinic in October that year for another opportunity in Salt Lake City, but was in Oakley, Idaho, a town of about 700 in 1930. By 1935 he was in Twin Falls, served in the Navy in WWII, and ended up in Indiana.

[73] Typhoid fever is a bacterial infection of salmonella typhi, which infects no animals except humans. It is spread exclusively by human feces in a contaminated drinking water supply or passed by an infected person or asymptomatic carrier by careless handling of food. Such was the case of the infamous Mary Mallon (Typhoid Mary), a cook in New York who worked for rich families, who was linked to 51 cases and three deaths. The fact that Bob and Mack became ill at the same time suggests that they were together when exposed to salmonella. To me that suggests the source was drinking water. The fact that the rest of the family was spared eliminates the family's well as the source. Mack wrote that he and his father had drunk from a mossy spring shortly before becoming ill. If that was the cause, it had to have been close to human sewage—farm animals can not cause typhoid. Typhoid fever has been virtually eliminated in the United States (about 400 cases per year, mostly in travelers returning from other countries) by the chlorination of water, better isolation of cesspools from wells, and better attention to hygiene among food handlers. It can be effectively treated by antibiotics and rehydration and has a mortality rate of about 0.2%. But before antibiotics and routine chlorination of drinking water, typhoid was a serious problem with a mortality of 10-20%. There was a good diagnostic test for typhoid developed in 1896 called the Widal test, but it was generally negative for the first week of illness, which might explain why it was not immediately diagnosed in Bob Bateman's case. During the first week of infection the patient feels malaise (flu-like symptoms), mild fever, headache, and cough. The second week brings a temperature of around 104° with tiredness too great to permit getting out of bed, delirium, and in some people, a distinctive rash called rose spots. Diarrhea is unusual—constipation is more likely with severe abdominal pain. This is when the Widal test becomes positive. The patient can't eat or drink adequately. Fever and delirium continue into the third week. Death can happen due to dehydration, but usually follows perforation of the small intestine producing sepsis (blood infection).

The service was held in the West Jordan Chapel, which seated 600. It was totally filled including the aisles and hallways. The Apollo quartet[74] sang. There was a duet by Miss Rosemond Holt and Mr. Golden Holt and solos by Elsie Dahl, Miss Rosemond Holt, and "Brother Burton." Bob's cousin George Q. Bateman spoke.[75] Other speakers included his cousin Robert L. Pixton, principal of Uintah High School, Panguitch stake president W. J. Henderson, Panguitch Mayor J. Frank Houston, and Professor William Peterson, Director of the USAC Extension division. Bishop of West Jordon William H. Gardner and W. Jordan Stake President Joseph Holt spoke, followed by Hans P. Ipson, Bob's Panguitch bishop. The bishop of the Panguitch south ward, Fred G. Gardiner gave the benediction. After the service Bob's body was buried in the West Jordan Cemetery.[76]

Bob's flowers and casket

Ross drove Rela and the boys back in her 1927 Chrysler. If LaVar is correct that Mack was delirious for "many weeks," he must still have been pretty sick when they returned. Rela had to stay in Panguitch until Mack was well, but her family wasted no time preparing for her move. Her father, A. O. McMullin, her brother Ross, and Bob's brother Pres all went to Panguitch to help her sell the farm and the animals. Rela said that it was the end of the world for her. She felt that she was having a nervous breakdown and her mother stayed with her for a while. She gave away her pretty bassinette and crib and several large cooking utensils, which she later regretted.

As soon as Mack was well enough they permanently moved back to South Jordan. All the animals were sold except one young pig in a crate, which they tied to the running board of Pres' new Dodge panel truck with screen wire sides. The inside was stuffed with furniture and household goods, piled high on the roof. LaVar rode in the truck with Pres and Rela's brother Urban, and the next day Rela and the other boys came with her parents in the Chrysler. They were back in time for LaVar to be baptized in the Jordan River a few days after his birthday on June 6.

Bob had life insurance which permitted Rela to build a house in West Jordan on the west side of Redwood road on a plot which Bob's father Phon had secured for her. They built a double garage there first and lived in it while the rest of the house was being built. LaVar and Mack went to grade school that year but missed a lot of class due to measles and mumps in the crowded quarters. The next year Rela moved to South Jordan to be closer to her own parents. By this time the Great Depression had begun and she felt she needed more education in order to support her family, so Rela moved to Logan

[74] Charles Smith, Shipley Smith, Joseph Smith, and M.D. Todd, Jr.
[75] George also spoke years later at Bertin's funeral.
[76] Twelve years later Rela felt impressed to have Bob's grave moved to South Jordan, where she had bought eight grave lots by the side of her father's grave. Later Bertin was buried next to his father, and finally, so was Rela.

Helen McMullin

to complete her bachelor's degree, which she accomplished with honors in two years. They lived upstairs in the home of Bob's cousin George Q. Bateman and his wife Edith. Rela's little sister, Helen, lived with them as a babysitter while Rela completed her degree.

Rela got a job teaching school in Magna, and later married A. Ray Beckstead, a widower 13 years her senior with eight children of his own. Their joint family made it through the depression on a shoestring, relying upon his tiny South Jordan farm. Her four boys leaned heavily on Bob's father Phon and his brother Pres for work and for male role models as they grew up. All four boys served in World War II and married after the war. They raised thirteen grandchildren for Bob, who never had the blessing of knowing him, myself included.

Bertin and Kayleen, 1952

The only one of his sons to follow Bob's path to study agronomy in college was Bertin, who was just over a year old when his father died. After his military service Bertin Bateman graduated from the Utah State Agricultural College in agronomy, where he worked at the college dairy farm for George Q. Bateman milking cows and keeping office records. After graduation he became an employee of the Soil Conservation Service, supervising a farm in Akron, Colorado with his wife Mary Lou and daughter Kayleen. Like Bob, he became too ill to manage the farm and his brothers rushed to his aid. And like his father, Bertin died young, succumbing at the age of 25 to a malignant teratoma on July 29, 1952.

George Q. Bateman spoke at Bertin's funeral in the South Jordan Ward Chapel.